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Statement Prepared by Gustav Heningburg, President of the Greater Newark Urban Coalition, for inclusion with release of "Une Yaar Later" study on February 27, 1969

NEMASK, FERMARY 27th---The first-emiversary appraisal of America's reaction to the domestic crisis reported by the Eerner Commission indicates
that America has taken some halting steps to respond to the crisis of our
cfries, but real tangible progress in dealing with the conditions of slamghetto life has been nowhere in scale with the problems. This characterization of the national response certainly has its parallel in the Greater

For example, while demolition and clearance of sub-standard deellings continues throughout the Newark ghetto, the building of mufficient housing units for the displaced is nowhere in sight. This situation is exacerbated in Newark by the major displacement resulting from the medical school construction and the large number of families who have been, or will be affected by highway construction. Economics and housing discrimination continue to prevenut movement of those displaced to other cities in the county.

The city and county welfare costs continue to escalate, as do the welfare rolls, despite the fact that only a fraction of those who are eligible for such assistance are actually receiving it. At the same time, there is growing resistance among taxpayers to the costs involved, even though no American has ever been raised above the powerty level through welfare support because the payments are too low to accomplish that.

Our city school system remains in the crisis of overcrowded classes, inadequate physical plants, insufficient qualified teachers, and a general recognition that the children being graduated from the ghetto schools fall far behind national norms in reading, math and other subjects.

In employment, Newark still suffers one of the highest constant unemployment rates in the nation, both among adults and toem-agers. Major efforts have been undertakin in the private sector here, but these efforts have not been matched by the creation of jobs in the public domain...although it is apparent nationally and locally that the public job creation must become a priority item. The proposed construction of a jutport in northern New Jersey is an example of the potential stimulus of public jobs, since it is estimated that this vill create over 100,000 jobs.

Polico-community relations continue to plague us in Newark, at the same time that the crims rate is escalaring faster than law enforcement officials can possibly cope with. Efforts to recruit more competent police officers have not with slight success, and attempts to raise the level of pay has been resisted by lenislators.

In virtually every other area covered by the national report, Newark has a parellal situation. However, while the report may seem to present a depressing picture, it is imperative that the nation be continually reminded that it has not remponded to the crisis our tree and powerty adequately. Hopefully, reports such as "One Year Later" will serve to stimulate the action necessary, rather than having a repeat of the death and destruction which resulted in the creation of the Kerner Commission originally. Nationally and locally, we have the capacity to resolve these problems. It is now our uncertain reprossibility to mobilize the resources necessary to do the job.

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